

HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

Complete forms for the first fifteen of sixty selected buildings in Charles County to be recorded as part of a historic sites survey jointly sponsored by the County Commissioners and the Maryland Historical Trust have been turned in to the county's Planning Department, supervisor of the 1977-78 survey.

Survey forms, including detailed written descriptions, property histories (where known), photographs, plot plans, map locations and floor plans have been completed for "Apple Grove," Dentsville; "Greenwood," Pisgah vicinity; "Trinity Lake House," Charlotte Hall vicinity; "Brick House," Blossom Point; "Charleston," Issue; "Dearbought," Benedict; "Swann House," La Plata; "Cedar Grove," McConchie; "Johnstown," Bel Alton; "Johnstown Tobacco Barn," Bel Alton; "Sanders House," Doncaster; "Mansion Hall," Ironsides; "Allen's Mill Archeological Site," Allen's Fresh; and the "McDaniel House," Pisgah.

Although several of these buildings are currently in ruins they have been included in the survey due to their individual significance to the study of Maryland's vernacular architecture. Specifically, these are "Greenwood," the "Trinity Lake House," the "Sanders House," and "Mansion Hall." Each of these four buildings yielded sufficient information to document their various unique features, and full measured drawings are being prepared. The data collected as part of the survey will serve a variety of purposes in addition to becoming a permanent part of the state archives.

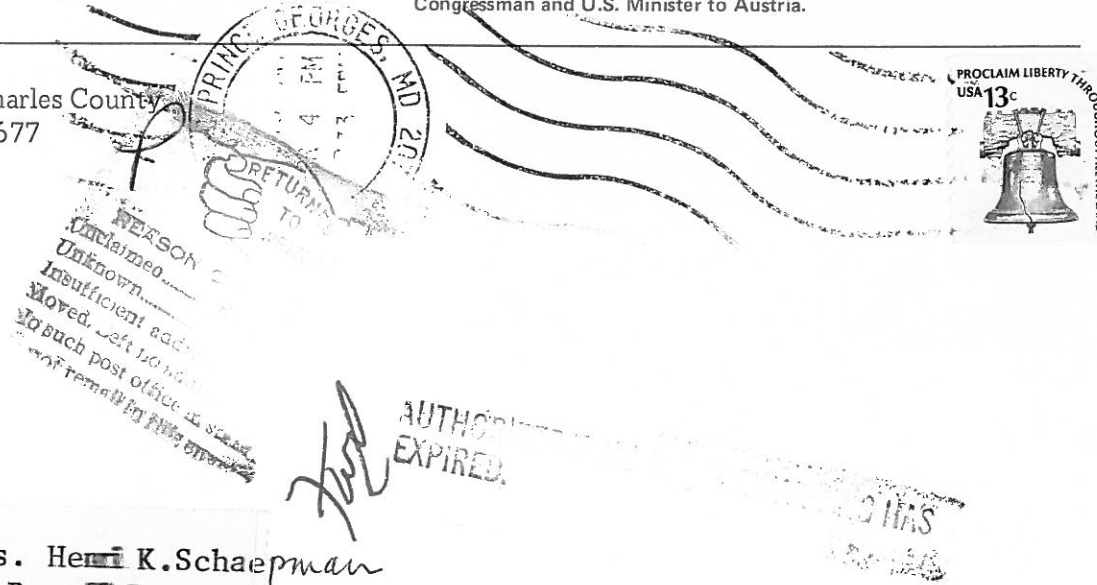


"Apple Grove," Dentsville. Also known as Miles Addition and Locust Valley Farm, the oldest section of this three-part house dates from the second half of the 18th century. The two-story portion was added c. 1840-50.



"Charleston," near Issue, was built c. 1830 by Daniel Jenifer, a U.S. Congressman and U.S. Minister to Austria.

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PRESENTATION OF NEWLY ACQUIRED FURNISHINGS
FOR FRIENDSHIP MADE AT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

The Historical Society held their winter meeting at the Hawthorne Country Club on Friday evening, January 27th, with a program that included a display of antique furnishings and accessories recently purchased by the Friendship Furnishings Committee for use and display in the reconstructed Old Friendship, headquarters and museum of the Historical Society. After a brief business meeting, Warren Barley, Chairman of the six-member Committee, discussed the Committee's goals and objectives and made informative individual presentations of each item displayed.

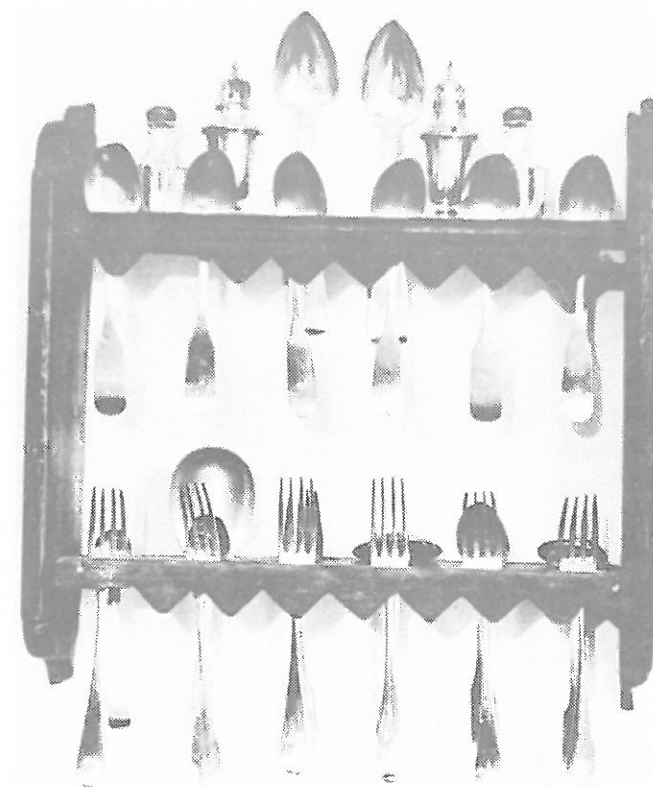
The purchase of articles for Friendship has been made possible by a generous gift of almost eight thousand dollars by the Garden Club of Charles County. The Committee, which includes in its membership representatives of the Garden Club, was formed to assume the responsibility of utilizing these funds to acquire furniture, paintings, rugs and other accessories appropriate for use in the house. The Committee is also able to accept additional pieces by gift and temporary or permanent loan.

Friendship represents a regionally typical early-eighteenth century farmhouse, although a part of it is traditionally said to have late-seventeenth century origins. To make the interior of the house as historically accurate as possible the Committee feels that the furnishings should reflect the relatively modest economic situation of its original occupants. Consequently, good but simple country pieces are being sought rather than the more refined and sophisticated examples of period cabinetry.

The increasingly widespread interest in period antiques by collectors and investors and the rapidly escalating prices of even the most primitive pieces have had a substantial impact on the availability of good but reasonably priced examples of eighteenth century American furniture and accessories. Locating suitable pieces that can be purchased within the Committee's budget has not been an easy task, despite the ten to twenty percent discount the

Historical Society qualifies for. Nevertheless, a nucleus collection of several important pieces has already been established.

The current collection numbers fifteen items purchased by the Committee and five acquisitions by gift. These include a rare, early-eighteenth century child's ladder back chair in original condition (pictured); a late-seventeenth century pine blanket chest; an eighteenth century low post bed; an especially attractive early-eighteenth century bannister back chair (pictured); a late-seventeenth century "Flemish" side chair; an early-eighteenth century spindleback chair; an eighteenth century spoon rack (pictured) and a mortar and pestle holder, both rare and in completely original condition (gift);



Early 18th century spoon rack. The 18th and 19th century silver is not part of the Society's collection, but was used to illustrate the function of this piece.



(Left). Child's ladder back chair, early-18th century. (Right). Early-18th century bannister back chair.

a seventeenth or early eighteenth century iron bound chest (gift); two eighteenth century tin oil lamps (gift); a unique iron and wood early-eighteenth century candleholder; one pair of wrought iron gooseneck andirons with "penny" feet; an unusual splint/rush candle holder; two tin sconces; a posnet (a three leg skillet); an iron bowl; and an iron tea kettle with an unusual tilting mechanism. The last seven items are all eighteenth century and extremely rare. Several additional items—four eighteenth century woven coverlets and the Hesselius portrait of Walter Hanson — that were given to the Society in recent years will also be displayed as part of the museum collection.

By the end of this year the Committee hopes to have acquired a sufficient number of additional items so that by this fall the interior of Friendship will assume a relatively "finished" appearance. Items being sought for Friendship by loan, gift or purchase include china, pewter, silver, paintings, maps, prints, rugs, tables, beds, blanket chests, chests of drawers, additional chairs, lighting fixtures, and fireplace equipment. The Committee is especially interested in items with local or regional associations or origins.



Collection of rare 18th century kitchen and fireplace accessories and lighting devices.

LOCAL PROPERTIES NOMINATED TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER

The Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland, recently announced the entry of two Charles County properties in the National Register of Historic Places. They are "Green's Inheritance," Pomfret, the home of Drs. Jay and Nancy Carsey, and "Linden," Port Tobacco, formerly the old Mitchell home and now owned and being restored by Mr. and Mrs. Warren Barley. "Green's Inheritance," (an article on this house appeared in a recent past issue of THE RECORD), has been attractively refurbished by the Carseys to house their outstanding collection of African and Asian art. The house was built in 1850 by Francis C. Green on land granted in 1649 to Governor Thomas Green. "Linden," the oldest part of which was built in the early-eighteenth century and subsequently enlarged in 1783 and c. 1850, is an extremely attractive example of traditional tidewater architecture. Commanding a fine view of the Port Tobacco valley, the house is fronted by magnificent linden trees and immense boxwood.

Three other Charles County properties with nominations currently under review are "Locust Grove," Port Tobacco, owned by W. Mitchell Digges; "Timber Neck Farm," Faulkner, owned by Brinsfield



The main section of "Locust Grove," Port Tobacco, was built in about 1820 by Dr. Thomas A. Davis. The older portion of the house, built c. 1730, is of particular interest for an unusually shaped gambrel roof.

Farms, Inc.; and Mt. Air Farm, Faulkner, owned by Mrs. Lucy Burroughs. "Locust Grove" is significant for the early date (c. 1730) and unusual architecture of its west wing, as well as the architectural merits of the Federal-style main block built by Dr. Thomas A. Davis in about 1820. The main house at "Timber Neck Farm" built by the Posey family c. 1780, is important for its combination Federal-style exterior plan and bold eighteenth century-style interior woodwork, as well as its double chimney with two-story pent (pictured). "Mt. Air," a garden tour favorite, has many unique architectural features and one of the largest formal boxwood gardens of its age in Maryland. All three properties have had their nominations approved at the state level, a lengthy procedure involving presentation to and acceptance by the Governor's Consulting Committee (a group of well-known professional historians appointed by the Governor specifically for the purpose of reviewing National Register nominations of properties located in Maryland) and processing by the State Clearinghouse to obtain comments from various local and state agencies. Following the signing of the individual nominations by the Governor they are forwarded to the National Register, a branch of the Department of the Interior, for final review and official acceptance.

Listing in the National Register entitles the individual property owners to certain protections from projects of a physically or environmentally damaging nature by federally licensed or funded agencies, various tax benefits and eligibility for National Park Service matching grants for restoration.



"Timber Neck," Faulkner, features a massive double chimney with two-story pent. At the base of the chimney is a door opening into the cellar. "Timber Neck" was built c. 1780 and is to be restored this year.